



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Scott McCallum, Governor
Phyllis J. Dubé, Secretary

May 14, 2002

To the Citizens of Wisconsin:

This document is the Department of Health and Family Services' Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Strategy. It was developed in response to the former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher's *Call to Action to Prevent Suicide* (1999), in which he stated that the problems of suicide and suicide prevention are critical public health priorities for our nation. Suicide claimed the lives of nearly 600 Wisconsin residents in the year 2000 alone. It is a major public health problem in the state.

Many dedicated individuals from public and private sectors of our state contributed to the development of the Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Strategy, providing guidelines to assist communities in developing their own suicide awareness and prevention campaigns.

We live in an era of unprecedented scientific knowledge and health care technology. Research shows that effective clinical care for mental, physical and substance use disorders provides significant protective factors in preventing suicide. The Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Strategy lists goals and intervention objectives based on scientific evidence that can have a direct impact on suicide prevention efforts.

The Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Strategy provides guidelines for us to come together in public-private collaborations to address the critical public health problem of suicide in Wisconsin. Suicide prevention is a priority in our state.

Sincerely,


Phyllis J. Dubé
Secretary

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